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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/420,696	10/19/1999	PAUL J. MURPHY	M-7803-US	3145

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EXAMINER

FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART-UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/420,696

Applicant(s)

PAUL J. MURPHY

Examiner

Jean B Fleurantin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 34-36 are added.

Claims 1-36 are remained for examination.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's arguments submitted on 04/25/2002 with respect to claims 1-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Examiner discusses the new added claims 34-36 in the following rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beelitz et al. (US Pat. No. 6,182,275) ("Beelitz").

As per claim 1, Beelitz substantially teaches a method for procuring a manufactured component through a plurality of development stages as claimed, the method comprises providing a database for storing information related to procuring the manufactured component (thus, manufacturing 135 is typically located at the plant or manufacturing facility where the computer

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systems are assembled; which is readable as providing a database for storing information related to procuring the manufactured component) (see col. 5, lines 17-19);

sharing the database among a plurality of relevant parties, at least one of the relevant parties comprising an outside vendor (thus, when the control computer system reads the tag it then knows to create a list of options for the particular entry if that entry is selected, for example the entry for an operating system may include a tag that indicates that the vendor offers a standard disk format or an alternative disk format with the operating system; which is readable as sharing the database among a plurality of relevant parties, at least one of the relevant parties comprising an outside vendor) (see col. 6, lines 35-40);

modifying the database at each development stage if necessary (thus, the entry for the component includes multiple corresponding tag fields in some embodiments control would also access the master data base to generate a list of always run parts such as patches software programs hardware components or implementation operations associated with the selected choice; which is readable as modifying the database at each development stage if necessary) (see col. 16, lines 57-62). But, Beelitz does not explicitly indicate the step of inputting data into the database by at least one of the relevant parties during a development stage of the manufactured component. However, Beelitz implicitly indicates the step of an SDR file is a computer readable text file that includes an entry or line for each hardware component software program patch or other operation to be implemented on the targeted computer system 137, each entry of the SDR includes the manufacturer's specific part number and associated prefix for the item represented, in

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some embodiments the associated prefixes identify the type of part program or component that the entry represents; which is readable as inputting data into the database by at least one of the relevant parties during a development stage of the manufactured component (see col. 13, lines 43-49). Also, in column 13, lines 28 through 30, Beelitz further teaches the steps of the control generates the always run parts for each selection or entry after the specifying session has been completed. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Beelitz with the steps of inputting data into the database by at least one of the relevant parties during a development stage of the manufactured component. This modification would allow the teachings of Beelitz to improve the accuracy of the engineering process for procuring component/peripherals, and provide a data file generates from the specifying or ordering session only includes compatible choices (see col. 3, lines 29-31).

As per claims 2 and 4, the limitations of the claims 2 and 4 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As per claim 3, Beelitz substantially teaches a method as claimed further comprises step of providing a pointer in the database, the pointer locating data related to at least one of the development stages (thus, manufacturing 135 is typically located at the plant or manufacturing facility where the computer systems are assembled; which is readable as at least one of the development stages) (see col. 5, lines 17-19).

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As per claim 5, Beelitz substantially teaches a method as claimed wherein the data includes: production information (thus, stock number tags indicating the number of parts in inventory; which is readable as production information) (see col. 17, lines 60-61);

testing information (thus, testing is to efficiently produce a useful, which is readable as testing information) (see col. 1, lines 59-61);

regulatory information (see col. 1, lines 40-42);

cost information (thus, the total costs of the items selected, which is readable as cost information) (see col. 17, lines 56-58).

As per claim 6, in addition to the discussion in claim 1 above, Beelitz substantially teaches a method wherein the database is stored on a memory and includes: a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the component (thus, a user may be presented with the option of implementing a "suspend-to-disk" operation or the option of implementing a utility partition of the hard drive in the targeted computer system; which is readable as a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the component) (see col. 9, lines 51-54).

As per claims 7, 10, 18, and 27 Beelitz substantially teaches a method as claimed wherein the database is accessible via one of an Internet connection to a network, an intranet connection to a network and both an Internet and intranet connection to a network (thus, via a network connection 120 to generate a list of options available for a build-to-order computer system as offered by the manufacturer or computer system vendor; which is readable as wherein the

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database is accessible via one of an Internet connection to a network, an intranet connection to a network and both an Internet and intranet connection to a network) (see col. 4, lines 43-45).

As per claims 8, 11, 19, and 28 Beelitz substantially teaches a method as claimed wherein the database is accessible via a transportable memory (thus, provides the second list to terminal via the network connection; which is readable as wherein the database is accessible via a transportable memory) (see col. 4, lines 54-58).

As per claims 9 and 17, in addition to the discussion in claim 1 above, Beelitz teaches step of a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of partitions (thus, control generates the list of hard drive preparation operations by reading the entries in the master data base 125 the entries in the master data base for the hard drive preparation operations each include at least one tag indicating that the entry is for a hard drive preparation operation and at least one tag indicating its relationship to the various operating systems this list is generated by control reading the relationship tags of the entries to determine if the preparation operation is optional or required for the selected version and language of the selected operating system type; which is readable as a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of partitions) (see col. 9, lines 51-64).

As per claims 12 and 29, Beelitz substantially teaches a method as claimed wherein the database is capable of activating a plurality of programs for viewing and editing the data, the plurality of programs enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view and

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edit identical data (thus, control 103 accesses a master data base 125 via a network connection 120 to generate a list of options available for a build-to-order computer system as offered by the manufacturer or computer system vendor, the control computer system 103 then provides the list via the network connection 110 to the terminal 105 where in the embodiment shown, the list is displayed on the terminal screen after the user makes a selection from the list an indication of that selected choice is sent back to the control computer system 103 the control computer system 103 then accesses the master data base 125 to generate a second list of options wherein each option of the second list is compatible with the previous selection the control computer system then provides the second list to terminal 105 via the network connection 110 to enable the user to select from a list of options that are compatible with the previous selection; which is readable as wherein the database is capable of activating a plurality of programs for viewing and editing the data, the plurality of programs enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view and edit identical data) (see col. 4, lines 41-58).

As per claims 13, 21, and 30 Beelitz substantially teaches a method as claimed wherein the plurality of programs are read-only views (thus, control would generate each sub menu list by reading only one logical section of the database at a time, which is readable as programs are read-only views) (see col. 11, lines 44-45).

As per claims 14, 22, and 31 the limitations of claims 14, 22, and 31 are rejected in the analysis of claims 1 and 6 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

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As per claims 15-16, 23-25, and 32-33 Beelitz substantially teaches a method as claimed wherein the plurality of forms include at least one of an evaluation form, a regulatory form, a reliability form, a design review form, a manufacturability form, a documentation form, a system test form, a mechanical form, a bench test form and a report form (thus, manufacturing 135 is typically located at the plant or manufacturing facility where the computer systems are assembled, the data file is used to manufacture a targeted computer system as per selections made by the user as indicated in the file; which is readable as wherein the plurality of forms include at least one of an evaluation form, a regulatory form, a reliability form, a design review form, a manufacturability form, a documentation form, a system test form, a mechanical form, a bench test form and a report form) (see col. 5, lines 17-22).

As per claim 20, substantially Beelitz teaches a method as claimed further comprises enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view identical data via a plurality of programs for viewing and editing the data (thus, control 103 accesses a master data base 125 via a network connection 120 to generate a list of options available for a build-to-order computer system as offered by the manufacturer or computer system vendor, the control computer system 103 then provides the list via the network connection 110 to the terminal 105 where in the embodiment shown, the list is displayed on the terminal screen after the user makes a selection from the list an indication of that selected choice is sent back to the control computer system 103 the control computer system 103 then accesses the master data base 125 to generate a second list of options wherein each option of the second list is compatible with the previous selection the

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control computer system then provides the second list to terminal 105 via the network connection 110 to enable the user to select from a list of options that are compatible with the previous selection; which is readable as enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view identical data via a plurality of programs for viewing and editing the data) (see col. 4, lines 41-58).

As per claim 26, in addition to the discussion in claims 1 and 9 above, Beelitz further teaches the step of a processor (thus, a processor and a memory operably coupled to the processor, which is equivalent to a processor) (see col. 2, lines 40-41).

system memory coupled to the processor (thus, a processor associated memory, which is equivalent to a processor (see col. 1, line 48).

As per claims 34-36, Beelitz substantially teaches a method as claimed, further comprises limiting access of said at least one outside vendor to at least a portion of said database (thus, the master data base 125 is a computer system readable data base that includes an entry for every software program and hardware component option offered by a computer system manufacturer or vendor for a build-to-order computer system; which is readable as limiting access of said at least one outside vendor to at least a portion of said database) (see col. 5, lines 53-63).

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Van Huben et al. US Patent Number 5,864,875 relates to control data management system. Black US Patent Number 6,044,369 relates to data retrieval methods.

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from examiner should be directed to Jean Bolte Fleurantin at (703) 308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. KIM VU can be reached at (703) 305-8449. The FAX phone numbers for the Group 2100 Customer Service Center are: ***After Final*** (703) 746-7238, ***Official*** (703) 746-7239, and ***Non-Official*** (703) 746-7240. NOTE: Documents transmitted by facsimile will be entered as official documents on the file wrapper unless clearly marked "***DRAFT***".

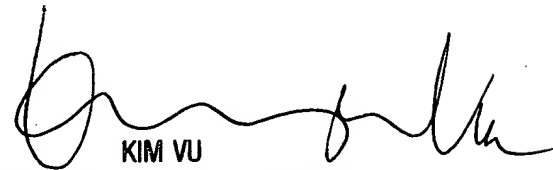
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2100 Customer Service Center receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703) 306-5631, (703) 306-5632, (703) 306-5633.



Jean Bolte Fleurantin

July 2, 2002

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